[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

SEMICONDUCTOR EXPOSURE METHOD AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

[CLAIMS]

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5 1. A projection exposure method in which a position of a wafer in a height direction in at least three or more measurement points is detected by a focus detection system that irradiates a light from an oblique direction to the measurement points and detects a reflected light 10 from the wafer using a sensor, in front and in the rear of an exposure area where exposure is performed to the wafer; an average height of a wafer portion located within the exposure area, an inclination in a direction perpendicular to a scanning direction and an inclination 15 in the scanning direction are calculated from position information of the wafer in the height direction in the at least three or more measurement points; a wafer surface is corrected and driven to an optimal exposure image plane position; and a circuit pattern formed on a 20 reticle is projected and exposed onto the wafer while relatively scanning the reticle and the wafer, wherein

the at least three or more measurement points of the focus detection system are arranged so as to form a plane on the wafer and the arrangement of the measurement points in front of the exposure area is the same as that of the measurement points in the rear of the exposure area,

position information (flat surface information) of

the wafer surface in the height direction in which measurement is not performed in the case the measurement in the scanning direction is performed at predetermined timing, and position information (flat surface

information) of the wafer surface in the height direction that is located between the measurement points arranged in the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction are obtained beforehand, and

when performing exposure, a focus and a tilt are controlled and driven using the flat surface information as a position of the wafer surface in the height direction that is not measured by the focus detection system.

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2. The semiconductor exposure method according to Claim 1, wherein

a position at which the flat surface information is measured before carrying the wafer into the exposure apparatus is different from a position of the focus detection system of the exposure apparatus.

3. The semiconductor exposure method according to Claim 2, wherein

the position at which the flat surface information
25 is measured is different from the exposure position, and
a suction method for suctioning the wafer when measuring
the wafer flatness is the same as a suction method in the
exposure apparatus.

- 4. The semiconductor exposure method according to Claim 3, wherein the position at which the flat surface information is measured is different from the exposure position, and when the wafer is carried between the position and the exposure position, the wafer and a wafer chuck that suctions the wafer are carried together.
- 5. A projection exposure apparatus that detects a 10 position of a wafer in a height direction in at least three or more measurement points by a focus detection system that irradiates a light from an oblique direction to the measurement points and detects a reflected light from the wafer using a sensor, in front and in the rear 15 of an exposure area where exposure is performed to the wafer; calculates an average height of a wafer portion located within the exposure area, an inclination in a direction perpendicular to a scanning direction and an inclination in the scanning direction, from position 20 information of the wafer in the height direction in the at least three or more measurement points; corrects and drives a wafer surface to an optimal exposure image plane position; and projects and exposes a circuit pattern formed on a reticle onto the wafer while relatively scanning the reticle and the wafer, wherein 25

the at least three or more measurement points of the focus detection system are arranged so as to form a plane on the wafer and the arrangement of the measurement

points in front of the exposure area is the same as that of the measurement points in the rear of the exposure area,

position information (flat surface information) of

the wafer surface in the height direction in which
measurement is not performed in the case the measurement
in the scanning direction is performed at predetermined
timing, and position information (flat surface
information) of the wafer surface in the height direction

that is located between the measurement points arranged
in the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction
are obtained beforehand, and

when performing exposure, a focus and a tilt are controlled and driven using the flat surface information as a position of the wafer surface in the height direction that is not measured by the focus detection system.

6. The semiconductor exposure apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein

a position at which the flat surface information is measured before carrying the wafer into the exposure apparatus is different from a position of the focus detection system of the exposure apparatus.

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7. The semiconductor exposure apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein

the position at which the flat surface information

is measured is different from the exposure position, and an suction method for suctioning the wafer when measuring the wafer flatness is the same as a suction method in the exposure apparatus.

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8. The semiconductor exposure apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

the position at which the flat surface information is measured is different from the exposure position, and when the wafer is carried between the position and the exposure position, the wafer and the wafer chuck that suctions the wafer are carried together.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

15 **[0001]**

[RELEVANT TECHNICAL FIELD TO THE INVENTION]

The present invention relates to a method in which a wafer surface position is measured so as to obtain the best image performance in a semiconductor exposure apparatus used when manufacturing, for example, semiconductor devices, liquid crystal display devices, thin film magnetic heads, or the like, in a lithography process, and a semiconductor exposure apparatus incorporating the same.

25 **[0002]**

[BACKGROUND ART]

When manufacturing, for example, a semiconductor device, a liquid crystal display device, a thin film

magnetic head, or the like, in a lithography process, a semiconductor exposure apparatus that forms an image of a pattern on a mask or a reticle (hereinafter, generically referred to as a "reticle") onto an photosensitive substrate via a projection optical system has been used. [0003] In the projection exposure apparatus for semiconductor manufacturing, due to a microfabrication and an increase in integration density of an integrated circuit, it is requested to project and expose a circuit pattern on a reticle surface onto a wafer surface with higher resolution. Since a projection resolution of the circuit pattern is dependent on a numerical aperture (NA) of a projection optical system and an exposure wavelength, a method of increasing NA of the projection optical system while keeping the exposure wavelength fixed, or an exposure method where the exposure wavelength is further shortened in wavelength, for example, using i-line rather than g-line, or using a excimer laser oscillation wavelength rather than i-line, and also in the excimer laser oscillation wavelength, using 248, 193 nm, or further using 157 nm, has been examined, and an apparatus using an exposure wavelength of 193 nm has been commercially produced already. Further, to increase an exposure area in size has also been proceeded.

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25 [0004] As means for achieving these objects, as opposed to an apparatus previously called by the name of a stepper by a method in which an exposure area having a shape of almost close to square is reduced on a wafer to

be projected and exposed at once, an apparatus called by the name of a scanner in which the exposure area has a rectangular slit shape, and a reticle and a wafer are relatively scanned at high speed to accurately expose a large area has mainly been used. In the scanner, since a surface shape of a wafer can be aligned with an optimal exposure image plane position per scanning exposure slit, an effect of reducing an influence of wafer flatness can also be provided.

10 [0005] In a scanning type exposure apparatus (the socalled scanner), during scanning exposure, a wafer surface that reaches a scanning exposure slit needs to be aligned with an exposure image plane position in realtime, and therefore, a technology is used in which a wafer surface position is measured using a surface 15 position detection means by oblique incidence system before the wafer reaches the exposure slit, and is driven and corrected. In particular, in a longitudinal direction (a direction perpendicular to a scanning direction) of 20 the exposure slit, a plurality of measurement points used to measure not only a height of the wafer surface but also an inclination of the surface are arranged. [0006] As shown in FIG. 14, three measurement points of

the surface position detection means by oblique incidence

system are arranged on an upper side and a lower side

respectively in FIG. 14 that shows the scanning exposure

slit. FIG. 15 shows an example in which five points are

arranged on the upper side and the lower side,

respectively. The reason why the measurement points are arranged on the upper side and the lower side respectively is that since scanning for exposure is performed from both sides, i.e. from the upper side to the lower side and from the lower side to the upper side in FIGS. 14 and 15, the measurement points of the surface position detection means are arranged on the upper side and the lower side in order to allow the measurement of the focus of the wafer before exposure to be performed. 10 Regarding the method of measuring the focus and the tilt in the aforementioned scanning exposure, it is proposed in, for example, Kokai (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication) No. H09-045609 and the like. Further, as a proposal regarding the surface position 15 measurement and the correction method in the scanning type exposure apparatus, a proposal in which a focus and inclination information in a scanning direction and a non-scanning direction are measured at a plurality of measurement points in a pre-read area outside an exposure 20 area (Kokai (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication) No. H06-260391), and a proposal in which a plurality of measurement points are arranged in an exposure area, and a focus and inclination information in a scanning direction and a non-scanning direction are 25 measured to thereby perform correction drive (Kokai (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication) No. H06-283403) have been made.

[0007] FIGS. 7 and 8 show a principle diagram. In FIG. 7,

focus measurement of a wafer 3 is performed at discontinuous positions of measurement positions FP1, FP2, and FP3. A plane PMP is obtained from these three points by pre-read measurement, and when wafer 3 is moved to an exposure position shown in FIG. 8, the attitude of wafer 3 is controlled so as to conform to a best image-forming plane BFP and exposure is performed.

[8000]

[PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION]

- 10 According to a microfabrication trend, a depth of focus has been very small, and accuracy of aligning a wafer surface to be exposed with the best image-forming plane, the so-called focal accuracy has also been tighter and tighter. Particularly, an inclination of the wafer 15 surface in a scanning exposure direction has needed to be strictly measured and to be accurately corrected. In a wafer with a low accuracy in surface shape in particular, it has turned out that focus detection accuracy in an exposure area is a key factor. As a numerical example, a depth of focus of an exposure apparatus may be the value 20 of 0.4 μm , and the control demand of the flatness of the wafer may be $0.08 \mu m$ when it is 1/5 of the depth of focus, or 0.04 µm when it is 1/10 of the depth of focus, resulting in tens of nm order.
- 25 [0009] As is described above, this problem is due to that, when using the scanning type exposure apparatus, namely, the scanner, the timing at which the wafer surface position is measured by the surface position detection

means by oblique incidence system before the position reaches an exposure slit is discontinuous, and there is no information about wafer flatness between the timing and the information cannot be taken into consideration.

5 In other words, the problem may be referred to as "a focus sampling error in a scanner."

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[0010] Although this problem also occurs in the stepper, it is not considered seriously as compared to the scanner. The reason is that, in the scanner, exposure is performed in an exposure slit portion, whose exposure area is narrower in size compared to an exposure range of the stepper, for example, 20 mm square. That is, in the case of the scanner, since the area of the exposure slit is

in the narrow range to cope with the problem. In contrast, in the case of the stepper, since the focus is changed and/or the wafer is tilted in as a wide range as 20 mm square, fluctuation in the flatness of the wafer in a narrow area cannot be coped with. (As a matter of course,

narrow, the focus is changed and/or the wafer is tilted

it is natural that higher precision can be achieved by using information obtained by the fine sampling on the wafer, in order to obtain the optimal image plane of the stepper.)

[0011] For example, as the timing of this measurement, as shown in FIG. 7, the measurement is assumed to be performed at every 3 mm, which is the discontinuous value, on the wafer in the scanning direction. Thus, since the flatness of the wafer is poor in information between

these 3 mm steps, for example, at points FP1, FP2 and FP3, the focus may be deviated by Δ from a plane obtained by pre-read measurement. In exposure, the plane obtained by the pre-read measurement is conformed to the best image plane of the exposure projection optical system and exposure is performed, and therefore exposure is performed being defocused by a deviation amount Δ in FIG. 7. This discontinuous measurement occurs not only in the scanning direction but also in a direction perpendicular to the scanning direction similarly. This is not due to the timing of the measurement but due to the number of the measurement points of the oblique incidence system shown in FIGS. 14 and 15.

[0012] As a matter of course, the deviation amount Δ in
FIG. 9 is reduced by increasing the measurement timing,
for example, to every 1 mm, or increasing the number of
the measurement points of the oblique incidence system.
However, it may cause other problems such as reduction in
throughput due to the decrease in scanning speed on
exposure or the increase in scanning measurement time,
the increase in apparatus cost accompanied with the
complicated apparatus configuration, or the increase in
occurrence possibility of troubles.

[0013]

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25 [MEANS FOR SOLVING PROBLEM]

According to the present invention, there is provided a projection exposure method in which a position of a wafer in a height direction in at least three or

more measurement points is detected by a focus detection system that irradiates a light from an oblique direction to the measurement points and detects a reflected light from the wafer using a sensor, in front and in the rear of an exposure area where exposure is performed to the wafer; an average height of a wafer portion located within the exposure area, an inclination in a direction perpendicular to a scanning direction and an inclination in the scanning direction are calculated from position information of the wafer in the height direction in the at least three or more measurement points; a wafer surface is corrected and driven to an optimal exposure image plane position; and a circuit pattern formed on a reticle is projected and exposed onto the wafer while relatively scanning the reticle and the wafer, wherein the at least three or more measurement points of the focus detection system are arranged so as to form a plane on the wafer and the arrangement of the measurement points in front of the exposure area is the same as that of the measurement points in the rear of the exposure area, position information (flat surface information) of the wafer surface in the height direction in which measurement is not performed in the case the measurement in the scanning direction is performed at predetermined timing, and position information (flat surface information) of the wafer surface in the height direction that is located between the measurement points arranged in the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction

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are obtained beforehand, and when performing exposure, a focus and a tilt are controlled and driven using the flat surface information as a position of the wafer surface in the height direction that is not measured by the focus detection system.

[0014] First, before describing details of new proposals according to the present invention, the focus and tilt measurement of the conventional scanning type exposure apparatus, the so-called a scanner to the wafer will be described in detail using FIG. 2 and subsequent figures. FIG. 2 shows a configuration of an exposure apparatus, which has been produced commercially or has already been proposed.

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[0015] A light emitted from a light source 800, such as an excimer laser illuminates a pattern surface formed on 15 the undersurface of a mask or a reticle 1 (hereinafter, referred to as a reticle) through an illumination system 801 for forming an exposure beam in the optimal predetermined shape for exposure. An IC circuit pattern 20 to be exposed is formed on the pattern surface of reticle 1, and the light emitted from the aforementioned pattern passes through a projection exposure lens (hereinafter, referred to as a 'projection lens') to form an image in the vicinity above a wafer surface corresponding to an 25 image-forming plane. The reticle is mounted on a reticle stage RS, which is able to scan back and forth in one direction. The wafer is mounted on a wafer stage WS which has a configuration being able to scan and drive in XY

and Z directions in the figure and able to correct the inclination (referred to as tilt).

[0016] By scanning the reticle stage and wafer stage relatively at the rate of a ratio of an exposure
5 magnification, a shot area on the wafer is exposed. After one shot exposure is completed, the wafer stage is moved by one step for exposing the next shot, and the next shot is exposed by performing scanning exposure in the opposite direction. These operations are called as a
10 step-and-scan, which is an exposure method particular to the scanner. By repeating them, exposure is performed to shot areas of the entire surface of the wafer.

[0017] During scanning exposure of one shot area,

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operations are performed in which surface position information on the wafer surface is obtained by a focus tilt detection system 33, a deviation amount from the exposure image plane is calculated, the wafer surface in the height direction is aligned with the exposure image plane per exposure slit substantially by driving the stage in the Z direction and inclination (tilt) direction.

height measurement system. A method is employed where a light beam is made entered the wafer surface at a large angle (a low incident angle), and deviation of the image of the reflected beam is detected by a position detection device such as a CCD. In particular, the light beams are made entered a plurality of points to be measured on the wafer, and each light beam is guided to an individual

[0018] This focus tilt detection system uses an optical

sensor to calculate the tilt of the plane to be exposed, based on height measurement information at a plurality of positions.

[0019] Particularly, in recent years, the wavelength of the exposure light is becoming shorter, the NA of a projection lens is increasing, and the exposure depth of a focus is sharply reduced. Accordingly, in the present invention, there arises the need to measure and correct the inclination of the plane with high precision in the direction along a short side of the rectangle-shaped scanning slit, namely, in the scanning direction.

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[0020] As is shown in FIG. 15, a plurality of focus tilt measurement points are arranged so as to form a plane shape in an area AMf and an area AMr, thus making it possible to simultaneously measure focus tilt information, especially tilt information in the scanning direction, of the wafer right before reaching the exposure slit during scanning exposure.

[0021] Hereinafter, the focus measurement points on the
20 wafer surface shown in FIGS. 14 and 15 will be described.
FIGS. 14 and 15 show arrangements of the focus
measurement points, and FIG. 14 shows an example in the
case three measurement points are arranged and FIG. 15
shows an example in the case five measurement points are
25 arranged. The five measurement points are arranged within
area AMf below an exposure slit position AE in FIG. 15
and the focus tilt information of a wafer portion just
before reaching the exposure slit is obtained with good

accuracy, so that correction drive can be performed to align the wafer portion just before reaching the exposure slit with the best image-forming plane. Similarly, the five measurement points are also arranged within area AMr so as to cope with the scanning exposure in the opposite direction.

[0022] In the example shown in FIG. 15, since a tilt Y can be measured simultaneously besides a focus and tilt X, by arranging a plurality of focus measurement points so as to form a plane within a pre-measurement area in front of the exposure slit, the measurement with high accuracy becomes possible.

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[0023] Here, the outline of a surface position correction based on the pre-measurement of focus tilt upon scanning exposure will be described. As is shown in FIG. 5, before 15 wafer 3 having unevenness in a scanning direction SD reaches an exposure position (an exposure slit) EP, a focus at the wafer surface position and a tilt in the longitudinal direction of the exposure slit area (referred to as a tilt X), as well as a tilt in the 20 direction along the short side of the exposure slit (scanning direction) (referred to as a tilt Y), are measured at focus measurement positions FP that are arranged in plural so as to form a plane in front of the exposure slit. Then, a wafer stage (not shown) is 25 corrected and driven to the exposure position based on the measured information. In FIG. 6, the correction has been completed when the area that has been pre-measured

reaches the exposure slit, and exposure is performed through the exposure slit.

[0024] In order to measure the focus tilt information right before the area subject to scanning exposure reaches the exposure slit area, the plurality of focus tilt measurement points are arranged in an arrangement to form the planes before and behind the exposure slit area as shown in FIG. 15.

[0025] Further, the focus measurement points described 10 above have slit-shapes (hereinafter, the focus measurement point is also referred to as a projection slit for focus measurement), and the direction in which the projection slit for focus measurement extends is a direction that intersects with the scanning direction and 15 the non-scanning direction (a slant direction) on the wafer, and particularly, directions of the projection slits for focus measurement that is used for tilt measurement are different from one another. Besides, the projection slits for focus measurement at the plurality 20 of measurement points in the pre-measurement area of the exposure area are constituted by a plurality of slitshaped marks for focus measurement, and an arrangement direction of the slit-shaped marks is directed toward the center of the pre-measurement area. A method of reducing 25 a deficit of the measurement point in the periphery as small as possible to thereby increase measurement precision of the shot in the wafer periphery by this arrangement has already been proposed by the present

applicant.

[0026] FIG. 3 shows an optical schematic diagram, where the conventional focus measurement system shown in FIG. 2 is enlarged. FIG. 3 shows only a state where the five measurement points are arranged in the pre-measurement area in front for the purpose of simplification of explanation. Particularly in this embodiment, a shape of a mark is shown that is projected so that spans of the measurement points at the behind and those of the 10 measurement points at the front are differently arranged. [0027] A plurality of focus measurement beams are incident from a direction substantially perpendicular to the exposure scanning direction, and a mark that is projected to each measurement point is projected while 15 being rotated by a predetermined amount within an optical-axis cross section of the focus measurement optical system. As a result, on the wafer, the marks are arranged so that the directions of the measurement slits are inclined (the directions of the measurement slits 20 cross the scanning direction and the non-scanning direction), and pitch directions of the slits (the slitshaped marks) form an array in a direction towards the center measurement point.

[0028] FIG. 4 is a schematic configuration diagram of the
focus measurement optical system for achieving the
measurement point arrangement in FIG. 3. Reference
numeral 51 represents five illumination lenses, which
illuminate slit-shaped marks for focus measurement formed

in a projection pattern mask 52 for focus measurement with the light supplied from a light source (not shown). As the light source, a halogen lamp, an LED, or the like is preferably used, which provides a light with a wavelength that does not expose a photosensitive resist on the wafer, and has a wide wavelength range to some extent that is hardly affected by the interference of a resist thin film.

[0029] As shown in an A-view figure, the slit-shaped 10 marks corresponding to the number of the plurality of measurement points are formed in projection mask 52. Optical paths of the light beams formed by being illuminated to the plurality of measurement marks respectively are combined by an optical path combining 15 prism 53, and obliquely projected onto wafer 3 by a focus mark projection optical system 61. The light beams reflected off the surface of wafer 3 form an intermediate image-forming point in an optical path dividing prism by a focus photodetection optical system 62. In order to 20 increase measurement resolution, the optical paths are, after being divided for the respective measurement points by the optical path dividing prism, guided to a position detection device 71 at each measurement point by an magnifying detection optical system 63 arranged with 25 respect to each measurement point. As position detection device 71, a one-dimensional CCD is used in the present invention, and the direction in which the devices are arranged is the measurement direction. A B-view figure

shows a relation among the measurement mark, the position detection device, and the magnifying optical system 63 when viewing the optical axis direction from position detection device 71, and position detection device 71 of each measurement point is set so as to be perpendicular to the arrangement direction of the slit-shaped marks.

[0030] Although the one-dimensional CCD is used as the position detection device, a two-dimensional CCD may be arranged. Alternatively, a configuration may be employed, in which a reference slit plate is formed on an image-forming plane of a photodetection element, the light beams are scanned before a reference slit, and a transmitted light amount from the reference slit is detected.

[0031] Although the aforementioned description of the embodiment has been carried out referring to the configuration example where the five measurement points are arranged in the respective surface position measurement areas shown in FIG. 15, the above description may also be applied to the configuration in which the three measurement points are arranged in the respective measurement areas.

[0032] FIG. 14 shows an embodiment where three measurement points are arranged in each pre-measurement area in front of the exposure area.

[0033]

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[BEST MODE(S) FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION]

Next, details of new proposals according to the

present invention will be described using FIG. 1. In FIG. 1, a configuration on the right-hand side is similar to that in FIG. 2, which shows a conventional example. A configuration on the left-hand side of FIG. 1 is

- different from the conventional example shown FIG. 2, and a wafer stage WS2, an interferometer 82, a stage drive system 1001, a control system 1101, and a focus tilt measurement system 34 are configured independently of an exposure system configured as on the right-hand side in
- 10 FIG. 1, which is similar to that shown in FIG. 2. In FIG. 1, a measurement station MS is enclosed by a rectangular box with a broken line.
 - [0034] A wafer 4 is carried to measurement station MS, and before carrying wafer 4 to an exposure apparatus ET,
- pre-read of focus details, which is proposed in this application, is performed by focus detection system 34. At this time, a resist has already been applied to a surface of wafer 4 by a coater (not shown). This pre-read of focus details is performed by moving wafer 4 on wafer
- stage WS2 by a small amount of movement relying on interferometer 82. This small amount of movement is set to a value smaller than an amount that is focus detected discontinuously by focus detection system 33 of exposure apparatus ET upon exposure, so that wafer flatness
- information between discontinuous points can be obtained.

 [0035] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail. One embodiment of the present invention will be described using FIG. 22. FIG. 22 is a

flowchart showing a wafer flow, and first, a first wafer is carried into an exposure apparatus and detailed flatsurface measurement is performed to all shots. After completing the detailed flat-surface measurement, the wafer is moved to an exposure starting position of a first shot and focus measurement is performed at intervals, for example, at 2 mm pitch, and then, in the case an area between the discontinuous points is exposed using the detailed flatness information measured previously, exposure is performed by driving the focus and/or the tilt. Since, in a scanner, exposure is performed by scanning a reticle and a wafer, the part enclosed by the rectangular box with the broken line in FIG. 22 shows that the scanning is performed.

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15 [0036] When exposure of the entire range of one shot is completed by this scanning exposure, after moving to the next shot, exposure is repeatedly performed accompanied by the focus and/or tilt drive using the discontinuous focus measurement and the detailed flatness information in a manner as described above, and exposure is performed to all shots in the wafer. Once exposure of one wafer is completed, in the case exposure to the next wafer is set, the next wafer is exposed in similar procedures.

[0037] Referring to FIG. 16 through FIG. 21, the detailed flatness measurement will be described. FIGS. 16, 17, and 18 are examples of measurement in a scanning direction, while FIGS. 19, 20, and 21 are examples of measurement in a direction perpendicular to the scanning direction. In

- FIG. 16, symbols FP1, FP2, and FP3 are the positions at which the discontinuous focus measurement is performed. As a numerical example, distances between FP1 and FP2, and FP2 and FP3 are 2 mm in value.
- [0038] First, in the detailed flatness measurement, an example of the measurement in the scanning direction will be described. In Fig. 16, a flatness measurement is performed to DFP1 between FP1 and FP2 by focus tilt detection system 33, and then wafer stage WS2 is finely driven in the scanning direction so as not to change in a focusing direction (Z direction), and the flatness measurement of DFP2 between FP1 and FP2 is performed by focus detection system 33, as shown in FIG. 17. Similarly, in FIG. 18, wafer stage WS2 is finely driven in the scanning direction so as not to change in the focusing
- scanning direction so as not to change in the focusing direction (Z direction), and the flatness measurement is performed to DFP3 between FP1 and FP2 by focus detection system 33, thereby, flatness information on DFP1, DFP2, and DFP3 between FP1 and FP2 can be obtained.
- 20 [0039] Next, in the detailed flatness measurement, an example of the measurement in the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction will be described. In a manner similar to the example of the measurement in the scanning direction, in FIGS. 19, 20, and 21, wafer stage WS2 is
- finely driven in the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction so as not to change in the focusing direction (Z direction), and the flatness measurement is performed by the focus detection system at each position.

[0040] FIGS. 19, 20, and 21 show a relative position relation between light spots 33-1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 on the wafer surface measured by the focus tilt detection system, and areas A1, A2 and A3 on the wafer. Thereby, the detailed flatness measurement can be made in the scanning direction and the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction.

[0041] Using FIG. 23, another embodiment of the present invention will be described. FIG. 23 is a flowchart showing a wafer flow when there are two stages, one is for measurement and the other is for exposure. First, a first wafer is carried onto a measurement stage, and the detailed flat-surface measurement is performed to all shots. After the detailed flat-surface measurement of the wafer, the focus measurement is performed to a mark (a chuck mark) on a chuck for holding the wafer. Thereby, a relation of planarity between the flatness of the whole wafer surface and the chuck mark can be obtained.

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[0042] Next, the wafer is moved from the measurement stage to an exposure stage, while being held by the chuck. On the measurement stage, the detailed flat-surface measurement is performed to all shots of the next wafer as required independently of the movement of the exposure stage, and the focus measurement is further performed to the chuck mark in a manner similar to the first wafer, and after obtaining the relation of planarity of the flatness of the whole wafer surface and the chuck mark, the wafer is transferred to the exposure stage, while

being held by the chuck. (As required, it may be kept waiting.) With respect to the wafer moved to the exposure stage, only the focus measurement is performed to the chuck mark, and based on the information on the relation of planarity between the flatness of the whole wafer surface and the chuck mark measured at the measurement stage, the wafer is moved to an exposure starting position of a first shot, and the focus and/or tilt drive and exposure are performed.

10 [0043] Since, in the scanner, exposure is performed by scanning the reticle and the wafer, when exposure of all range of the first shot is completed, after moving to the next shot, similarly, exposure is repeatedly performed with the focus and tilt driving, using the detailed

15 flatness information, and exposure of all shots in the wafer is performed. When exposure of one wafer is completed, in the case exposure of the next wafer is set, the next wafer is exposed in similar procedures.

[00441

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20 [EFFECTS OF THE INVENTION]

According to the present invention, a projection exposure method in which a position of a wafer in a height direction in at least three or more measurement points is detected by a focus detection system that irradiates a light from an oblique direction to the measurement points and detects a reflected light from the wafer using a sensor, in front and in the rear of an exposure area where exposure is performed to the wafer;

an average height of a wafer portion located within the exposure area, an inclination in a direction perpendicular to a scanning direction and an inclination in the scanning direction are calculated from position information of the wafer in the height direction in the at least three or more measurement points; a wafer surface is corrected and driven to an optimal exposure image plane position; and a circuit pattern formed on a reticle is projected and exposed onto the wafer while 10 relatively scanning the reticle and the wafer, wherein the at least three or more measurement points of the focus detection system are arranged so as to form a plane on the wafer and the arrangement of the measurement points in front of the exposure area is the same as that 15 of the measurement points in the rear of the exposure area, position information (flat surface information) of the wafer surface in the height direction in which measurement is not performed in the case the measurement in the scanning direction is performed at predetermined 20 timing, and position information (flat surface information) of the wafer surface in the height direction that is located between the measurement points arranged in the direction perpendicular to the scanning direction are obtained beforehand, and when performing exposure, a 25 focus and a tilt are controlled and driven using the flat surface information as a position of the wafer surface in the height direction that is not measured by the focus detection system. Thereby, high focusing correction

accuracy can be achieved with respect to the reduced depth of focus, and the improvement in yield per wafer can be obtained.

[0045]

[ANOTHER EMBODIMENT]

Next, FIG. 11 shows an embodiment of an exposure apparatus that performs exposure in which a wafer is carried along with a chuck while being suctioned by the chuck, and only the chuck mark is measured after 10 completing all of the measurements by an Offset Analyzer in the exposure system according to the present invention. [0046] The chuck carried with the wafer being suctioned is suctioned by another chuck that suctions the chuck of the exposure apparatus. A focus of the chuck mark is 15 detected by the focus detection system, and after the drive in the focusing direction as needed, a position of the mark that is two-dimensionally measurable on the chuck mark is measured by an alignment detection system AS. This measurement is performed to a plurality of chuck 20 marks, and in order to expose each shot based on the measurement and calculation results by the Offset Analyzer, the wafer is moved using the XY stage while performing the measurement by the interferometer, and after the focus measurement and the drive in the focusing 25 direction as required in each shot, exposure is performed. After exposure of all shots is performed, the chuck is carried out of the exposure apparatus, with the wafer being suctioned.

[0047] In Fig. 11, a TTL Off-axis method using a light source with non-exposure light, such as a He-Ne Laser or a semiconductor laser, having such advantages that the baseline is stable, and the cost is inexpensive and stable is employed as alignment detection system AS for two-dimensional position detection of the chuck mark.

[0048] In this case, since alignment detection system AS of the exposure apparatus measures only the chuck mark, neither a complicated configuration nor TIS elimination are needed, which may allow a significant reduction in cost. Also, TIS should be considered only for the detection system of the Offset Analyzer, and does not need to be considered for a signal simulator.

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[0049] By applying the pre-read detection of focusing details of the wafer surface, which is proposed in this application, to the system using the movable chuck and the system using the Offset Analyzer that have been described so far, high-precision detection of the wafer focus, exposure with high precision, and high throughput can be achieved. The reason is that, in the case not only the plane (XY) measurement is performed, but also the focusing (Z) is similarly performed by a system outside the exposure apparatus, XYZ measurement may be performed only to the chuck mark in the exposure apparatus.

25 [0050] FIG. 12 shows an embodiment of a configuration of the Offset Analyzer that can achieve the pre-read of focusing details proposed in the present invention. This Offset Analyzer is constituted by a chuck that supports a

wafer and is movable while suctioning the wafer, an XYZ stage that is moved three-dimensionally, a Profiler that measures a surface shape with/without resist, a two-dimensional position detection system equivalent to an alignment scope constituting the exposure apparatus, a focusing detection system also constituting the exposure apparatus, a foreign particle inspection system capable of performing a foreign particle inspection also including the periphery of the wafer, and a CPU that entirely controls the Offset Analyzer and has a simulator for calculating an alignment offset from the surface shape.

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[0051] Since the detection principle of each detection system has already been proposed and carried out in various cases and the effect has been confirmed, any method may be employed, and thus description thereof will be omitted here.

[0052] The actual flow of a wafer and information is shown in FIG. 13. As shown in FIG. 13-(1), before

20 applying the resist, the wafer is carried to the Offset Analyzer (without being suctioned by the movable chuck on which the chuck mark is arranged, here). Next, as shown in FIG. 13-(2), a cubic shape of an alignment mark on the wafer is measured by the Profiler. Next, as shown in FIG.

25 13-(3), in order to apply the resist, the wafer is carried to the coater, and the resist is applied thereto.

Next, as shown in FIG. 13-(4), when the wafer is again carried to the Offset Analyzer, the wafer is carried

together with the chuck being suctioned by the movable chuck on which the chuck mark is arranged, and the surface shape of the resist on the alignment mark is measured by the Profiler. For this reason, in the Offset Analyzer, a function capable of mounting only the wafer itself, as well as even the chuck with the chuck mark is required.

[0053] This may be achieved by one mechanical mechanism, or by a method in which the wafer before resist

- application is suctioned once by a movable chuck on which the chuck mark is arranged or a chuck having an equivalent structure without the chuck mark, and after the Profiler measurement, the wafer is separated from the chuck and carried to the coater for resist application, and then resist coating is performed.
 - [0054] Next, as shown in FIG. 13-(4), the wafer is again carried to the Offset Analyzer, and the surface shape of the resist on the alignment mark is measured by the Profiler.
- 20 [0055] Simultaneously with, or before and after the time of measuring the surface shape of the resist on the alignment mark by the Profiler, alignment signals of a plurality of alignment marks for X and Y direction detection arranged at each shot on the wafer are detected by the alignment detection system constituting the Offset Analyzer. At this time, the focus measurement is also performed and a three-dimensional position relation between respective shots is obtained. Subsequently,

three-dimensional position measurement is performed to the plurality of chuck marks on the basis of the XYZ stage which position can be measured by the interferometer.

- proposed, an offset amount generated by the signal simulator is calculated. The foreign particle inspection may be performed before resist coating to prevent foreign particles from diffusing into the coater, and a sequence in which the foreign particle inspection is performed after resist coating to prevent an occurrence of an exposure failure or the like may also be possible. When all of the measurements are completed in the Offset Analyzer, the wafer being suctioned by the chuck is carried to the exposure apparatus along with three-dimensional relative relational information between the wafer and the chuck mark.
- [0057] Based on the three-dimensional relative relation between this offset and the chuck mark, three-dimensional position measurement is performed only to the chuck mark in the exposure apparatus, and mark alignment and exposure are then performed (FIG. 13-(5)), and after exposure of all shots is completed, the wafer is carried to a developer for development (FIG. 13-(6)).
- 25 [0058] The configuration in the exposure apparatus is similar to the embodiment shown in FIG. 11, and the chuck carried with the wafer being suctioned is suctioned by a chuck that suctions the chuck within the exposure

apparatus. The focus detection system detects a focus of only the chuck mark, and after the drive in the focusing direction as needed, a position of the mark that is twodimensionally measurable on the chuck mark is measured by alignment detection system AS. This measurement is performed to a plurality of chuck marks, and the wafer being suctioned by the chuck is driven to an exposure staring position of each shot by the XY stage which position can be measured by the interferometer, based on the measurement and calculation results by the Offset Analyzer. In this case, since the focus measurement is not needed in each shot, after the drive in the focusing direction as needed based on the measurement information by the Offset Analyzer, exposure is performed. After exposure is performed to all shots, the chuck is carried out of the exposure apparatus, with the wafer being suctioned.

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[0059] Thereby, in the exposure apparatus, after three-dimensional measurement of only the chuck mark is performed, only exposure is performed, which makes it possible to improve throughput of the exposure apparatus and improve performance of Coo (Cost of ownership) of the whole exposure system including the Offset Analyzer.

[0060] Incidentally, regarding focusing, in order to
25 perform the pre-read of details according to the present
invention, it is not limited to the configuration of only
the focusing detection system that uses a light beam, but
an offset can be obtained in the Offset Analyzer by

constituting a focus system that does not use a light beam, for example, a non-optical measurement system, such as a capacitance sensor or an air sensor. In this case, within the scope of not preventing exposure in the exposure apparatus, any modifications and improvements may also be implemented in the Offset Analyzer without deterioration in throughput.

[0061] In addition, the method in which the Offset Analyzer of wafer handling is used with the mark being arranged on the chuck according to the present invention is not limited to a TTL off-axis method in the exposure apparatus as shown in FIG. 11. Likewise, for example, also in detection of the chuck mark position using an off-axis microscope, deterioration in accuracy caused by a shape of the alignment mark being asymmetrical due to the processes can be prevented.

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[0062] As a matter of course, measures to cope with the fluctuation of the baseline are required in the Off-axis microscope, and it is necessary to use a member, which is hard to be influenced thermally, or to perform a baseline correction frequently.

[0063] As is described above, since deterioration in accuracy caused by the shape of the alignment mark being asymmetrical due to the processes is prevented in the method in which the Offset Analyzer of wafer handling is used with the mark being arranged on the chuck according to the present invention, an alignment method with high accuracy and high throughput can be implemented without

being influenced by a semiconductor forming process such as CMP, so that complicated optimization in the process is not required, thus allowing the improvement in Coo.

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

- 5 **[FIG. 1]** FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating a schematic configuration of a projection exposure apparatus for pre-read of focus details according to a first embodiment of the present invention.
- [FIG. 2] FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating a configuration of a conventional exposure apparatus.
 - [FIG. 3] FIG. 3 is a diagram explaining a principle of a focus measurement according to an embodiment of the conventional exposure apparatus.
- [FIG. 4] FIG. 4 is a diagram explaining a

 15 configuration of the focus measurement according to the embodiment of the conventional exposure apparatus.
 - [FIG. 5] FIG. 5 is a diagram showing a wafer surface focus tilt measurement upon scanning exposure.
- [FIG. 6] FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating a status

 where a wafer surface is driven to an optimal exposure

 image surface position in an exposure slit position based

 on a result of the wafer surface focus tilt measurement

 upon scanning exposure and the exposure is performed.
- [FIG. 7] FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating a status
 25 where the wafer surface focus tilt measurement is
 discontinuously performed at intervals.
 - [FIG. 8] FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating a status where the wafer surface is driven to the optimal exposure

image plane position based on the measurement result.

- [FIG. 9] FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating a defect in discontinuous measurement of the wafer surface focus tilt measurement.
- [FIG. 10] Fig. 10 is a diagram explaining a movable wafer chuck with a mark according to the embodiment of the present invention.
- [FIG. 11] FIG. 11 is a diagram explaining a
 configuration of an exposure apparatus using the movable
 wafer chuck with a mark according to the embodiment of
 the present invention.
 - [FIG. 12] Fig. 12 is a diagram explaining a configuration of an Offset Analyzer, which also pre-reads focusing details before wafer movement to the exposure machine according to the embodiment of the present invention.

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- [FIG. 13] Fig. 13 a diagram explaining a sequence, in which three dimensional information of the wafer is obtained by using the Offset Analyzer that also pre-reads the focusing details before wafer movement to the exposure machine, and exposure and development are performed, according to the embodiment of the present invention.
- [FIG. 14] Fig. 14 is a diagram illustrating a

 25 schematic optical configuration of the conventional focus
 measurement system for measuring three points in the
 exposure slit.
 - [FIG. 15] FIG. 15 is a diagram illustrating a

schematic optical configuration of the conventional focus measurement system for measuring five points in the exposure slit.

[FIG. 16] FIG. 16 shows an example of the measurement in a scanning direction.

[FIG. 17] FIG. 17 shows an example of the measurement in a scanning direction.

[FIG. 18] FIG. 18 shows an example of the measurement in a scanning direction.

[FIG. 19] FIG. 19 shows an example of the measurement in a direction perpendicular to the scanning direction.

[FIG. 20] FIG. 20 shows an example of the
measurement in a direction perpendicular to the scanning
direction.

[FIG. 21] FIG. 21 shows an example of the measurement in a direction perpendicular to the scanning direction.

[FIG. 22] FIG. 22 is a flowchart illustrating a 20 wafer flow of the present invention.

[FIG. 23] FIG. 23 is a flowchart illustrating a wafer flow in the case there are stages for measurement and for exposure.

[EXPLANATIONS OF LETTERS OR NUMERALS]

- 25 1: Reticle
 - 2: Projection lens
 - 3: Wafer
 - 4: Wafer in measurement station

- 5: Wafer under transportation to exposure apparatus
- 33: Focus and tilt measurement system
- 51: Illumination lens for focus measurement
- 52: Projection mask on which a mark for measurement is
- 5 formed
 - 53: Optical path combining prism
 - 61: Mark projection optical system for focus measurement
 - 62: Mark photodetection optical system for focus measurement
- 10 63: Mark magnifying photodetection optical system for focus measurement
 - 71: Position detecting sensor
 - RS: Reticle stage
 - WS: Wafer stage
- 15 81: Interferometer
 - 800: Laser light source for exposure
 - 801: Illumination optical system for projection exposure
 - 1000: Stage driving system
 - 1100: Control system
- 20 MS: Measurement station
 - ET: Exposure apparatus
 - WS2: Wafer stage in measurement station
 - 83: Interferometer in measurement station
 - 1001: Stage driving system in measurement station
- 25 1101: Control system in measurement station
 - 5: Light source (for example, He-Ne laser)
 - 7: Fiber
 - 8: Alignment illumination optical system

- 9: Beam splitter
- 10: Relay lens
- 11: Object
- 12: Reticle
- 5 13: Reduced projection optical system
 - 14: Mirror
 - 15: Elector
 - 16: CCD camera
 - 17: Chuck mark image formed on CCD camera
- 10 18: XY stage
 - 20: Illumination optical system for reticle pattern exposure
 - 21: Movable wafer chuck with chuck mark
 - 22: θ -Z stage
- 15 23: Tilt stage
 - 25: Bar mirror
 - 26: Laser interferometer
 - 29: Focus measurement system (light projection system)
 - 30: Focus measurement system (detection system)
- 20 AS: TTL Off-axis alignment scope
 - 31, 32: Chuck mark
 - 33: Chuck for suctioning a chuck
 - 51: Computer

[ABSTRACT]

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[OBJECT] To correct an uneven wafer surface with good accuracy to make the wafer surface conform to an optimal exposure plane, in a scanning type projection exposure apparatus.

[SOLUTION] In a projection exposure apparatus that projects and exposes a circuit pattern on a reticle onto an exposure area on a wafer via a projection optical system, by scanning the slit-shaped exposure area in 10 particular, a surface position measurement unit that uses three or more measurement points for pre-read arranged in front of an exposure slit obtains in advance flat surface information on the wafer between the discontinuous measurement points due to the timing of focus measurement in a scanning exposure direction in the exposure 15 apparatus and flat surface information on the wafer between at least three or more measurement points that are arranged in a direction perpendicular to the scanning exposure direction, using a focus detection system that is separately configured from the exposure apparatus, before the wafer is carried into the exposure apparatus. When exposure is performed, by controlling and driving a focus and a tilt using the flat surface information at a position on the wafer that is not measured by the focus detection system, focus correction with high accuracy is achieved with respect to a reduced depth of focus, which makes it possible to improve yield per wafer.

[DRAWING SELECTED] FIG. 4

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最終頁に続く

(54) 【発明の名称】半導体露光方法及び露光装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】走査型投影露光装置において、ウエハー表面の 凹凸形状を懸露露光面に精度良く補正追従させる。

【解決手段】レチクル上の回路パターンを投影光学系を介してウエハー上の露光領域に投影露光する露光装置において、特にスリット状の露光領域を走査させることによってウエハー上に投影露光する装置であり、露光スリットの前方に先読み計測点を3点以上設けた面位鑑計測装鑑において、

そのウエハー平面度を総光装

※に搬入する前に、総光装

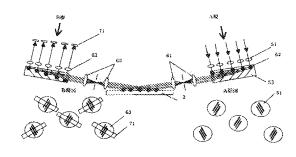
※とは別に構成したフォーカス検出系により、総光装

での走蒸総光方向でのフォーカス計測のタイミングによる飛び飛びの計測点の間、及びに走査総光方向と直交方向に構成した少なくとも3点以上の計測点の間のウエハーの平面情報を事前に求めておき、総光時にはフォーカス検出系で計測しない間のウエハーの位

※では、該平面情報を使用して、フォーカス、チルトを制御、駆動することで、縮小される焦点深度に対し高いフォーカス補正

精度を達成し、一枚のウエハーあたりの歩留まり向上を

得ることが可能となる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

レチクル上に形成された回路パターンをウエハー上に投影総光する投影総光装総において、該レチクルと該ウエハーを相対的に走査して露光する露光装置であり、該露光装器とにおいて、該ウエハーを相対の前後にそれぞれ少なくとも3点以上の領域に光を斜め方向から照射し、該ウエハーからの反射光をセンサーにて検出するフォーカス検出系を構成し、この該フォーカス検出系で該ウエハーの各計測点におおり、からの領さを算出し、該ウエハーと表面を最適終光像面位機に補正駆動を行う該総光方向への傾きを算出し、該ウエハー上で事面を形成するのの動を行う該総光方向への傾きを算出し、該ウエハー上であり、た走査総光方向での計測点位置されており、かつ該露光位置の計測点位置は同一形状であり、走査を光方向での計測のタイミングによる飛びの計測点の間、及びに走査されており、かつ該露光での計測点の間、及びに走査されており、かつ該の計測点の間、及びに走査されており、かつ該の計測点の間、及びに走査されており、がつるでは、該平面情報を使っていなくとも3点以上の計測点の間の該ウエハーの位置では、該平面情報を使用して、フォーカス、チルトを制御、駆動することを特徴とした半導体総光方法。

【請求項2】

該平面情報を露光装巡へ搬入する前に計測する位篋が、該露光装置のフォーカス検出系の位置とは異なる、ことを特徴とした前記請求項1に記載の半導体露光方法。

【請求項3】

該平面情報を計測する位置と該腦光位置とは異なり、その該ウエハー平面度を計測する時の、該ウエハーを支持する吸着方法が、該総光装置での吸着方法が同一な方法で行う、ことを特徴とした前記請求項2に記載の半導体露光方法。

【請求項4】

該平面情報を計測する位置と該総光位置とは異なり、その間を該ウエハーを移動する時に、該ウエハーと該ウエハーを吸着しているウエハーチャックと一緒に移動する、ことを特徴とした前記鱗求項3に記載の半導体総光方法。

【請求項5】

レチクル上に形成された回路バターンをウエハー上に投影総光する投影総光装置において、該レチクルと該ウエハーを相対的に走査して総光する総光装置であり、該総光装置上において、該ウエハーの総光位機の前後にそれぞれ少なくとも3点以上の領域に光を斜め成し、この該フォーカス検出系で該ウエハーの各計測点における高さ方向を求め、少な付金、とも3点以上の計測点からの情報がらにでは、該ウエハーとで平面を形成するの領されよび走査総光方向への領きを第出し、該ウエハー上で平面を形成する方に配置されており、かつ該総光位機の前後の計測点は該ウエハー上で平面を形成する方に配置されており、かつ該総光位機の前後の計測点に走査総光方向と直交方向にでの計測のタイミングによる飛び飛びの計測点の間、及びに走査総光方向に求めておき、構成した少なくとも3点以上の計測点の間の該ウエハーの位置では、該平面管報を使用して、フォーカス、チルトを制御、駆動することを特徴とした半導体総光装置。

【麴求項6】

該平面情報を露光装置へ搬入する前に計測する位置が、該露光装置のフォーカス検出系の位置とは異なる、ことを特徴とした前記請求項5に記載の半導体霧光装置。

【請求項7】

【請求項8】

該平面情報を計測する位置と該際光位機とは異なり、その間を該ウエハーを移動する時に、該ウエハーと該ウエハーを吸着しているウエハーチャックと一緒に移動する、ことを特

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徴とした前記請求項7に記載の半導体露光装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、たとえば半導体終子、液晶表示素子、薄膜磁気ヘッド等をリソグラフィー工程で製造する際に使用される半導体露光装置において、最良な像性能を得るべくウエハー接面位置を計測する方法およびそれを搭載した半導体露光装置に関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】

例えば半導体素子、液晶 表示 潔子又は薄膜磁気ヘッド等をリソグラフィー工程で製造する際に、マスク又はレチクル(以下「レチクル」と総称する)のパターンを投影光学系を介して感光基板上に結像する半導体露光装置が使用されている。

[0003]

この半導体製造用の投影 総光装 総においては、集 日路の微細化、高密度化に伴いレチクル面上の回路パターンをウエハー面上により高い解像力で投影 総光できることが要求されている。回路パターンの投影解像力は、投影光学系の開口数(NA)と 総光波長に依存するので、露光波長を固定にして投影光学系のNAを大きくする方法や総光波長をより短波長化する、例えば g線より i線、i線よりエキシマレーザー発振波長、エキシマレーザー発振波長においても、248、193nm、更には157nmを使用する 総光方法の検討を行っており、193nmの 総光波長については既に製品化されている。更に総光面積の大画面化も進んでいる。

[0004]

[0005]

走査型露光装置、通称スキャナーでは、走査露光スリット毎にウエハー表面を走査露光中に霧光像面位置にリアルタイムで合わせ込むためには露光スリットに差し掛かる事前にウエハー表面位置を光斜入射系の表面位置検出手段で計測し駆動補正を行うという技術が用いられている。特に霧光スリットの長手方向、走査方向と直行方向には高さのみならず表面の傾きを計測すべく複数点の計測点を有している。

[0006]

図14に示した様に、走癥総光スリットの図14では上下に光斜入射系の表面位臘検出手段の計測点をそれぞれ三点ずつ構成している。図15では、五点ずつ構成している例である。上下にそれぞれ構成するのは、露光の為の走査が、図14,15においては、上からと下からの両方向から行われる為、総光する前にウエハーのフォーカスを計測を可能とする為に上下にフォーカス検出系を構成している。上記走査総光におけるフォーカス、チルト計測の方法に関しては特開平09-045609などに提案されている。さらに、走査型総光装置における、面位置計測と補正方式に関する提案としては、露光領域外の先読み領域にて面情報面營報を複数点の計測点でフォーカスおよび、走査方向と非走査方向の領意情報を計測する提案(特開平06-283403)がされている。

[0007]

図7,8にその実施の原理図を示した。図7において、ウエハー3のフォーカス計測を毛計測位置FP1,2,3の飛び飛びの位置で行う。この三点から先読み計測による平面PMPを求め、図8の露光位置にウエハー3を移動時には最良結像面BFPに一致する様に

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ウエハー3の姿勢を駆動して露光を行うものである。

[0008]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

微細化トレンドにしたがって焦点深度がきわめて小さくなり、総光すべきウエハー表面を最良結像面に合わせ込む精度いわゆるフォーカス精度もますます厳しくなってきている。特に走査総光方向のウエハー表面の傾きも厳密に測定し精度良く補正する必要が生じて来ている。特に表面形状精度が悪いウエハーにおいては露光領域のフォーカス検出精度が問題となる事が判明した。数値例を上げると、露光装緩の焦点深度は、0.4μmと言う値の場合もあり、それに対してウエハーの平面度の制御要求は、深度の1/5とすれば0.08μm、1/10とすれば、0.04μmとなり、数十nmのオーダーとなっている。

[0009]

この問題は前述の様に走査型終光装置、通称スキャナーで終光スリットに差し掛かる前に ウエハー表面位機を光斜入射系の表面位置検出手段で計測する、そのタイミングが飛び飛 びである事が原因であり、その間のウエハー平面度に関しては情報が無い為、考慮する事 ができない事によるものである。別の意業でこの問題点を表現すれば、『スキャナーにお ける、フォーカスサンプリング観差』と言える。

[0010]

この問題はステッパーにおいても発生しているが、スキャナーほど薫要視はされない。何故ならスキャナーにおいては、露光スリット部分での露光であり、ステッパーの場合の窓光範囲、例えば露光範囲が角20mmとか、と比較して狭い窓光面穏である。スキャナーの場合、この窓光スリットの面積が狭い範囲なので、ウエハーの平面度に対して、その狭い範囲に関して、フォーカスを変えたり、チルトさせたりして対応できるが、ステッパーの場合は、例えば角20mmと言う広い範囲での最適像面となる様な対応のみであり、狭い範囲でのウエハー平面度のばらつきへの対応ができない点が異なる事である。(もちろんステッパーの最適像面を求めるのに、ウエハー上で細かいサンプリングに基ずいた情報の方が高精度を達成するのは当然の事ではあるが。)

[0011]

例えばこの計測のタイミングとしては、図7に示す様に、スキャン方向に対してウエハー上3mm毎の飛び飛びの値で行うとする。すると、この3mmの間の情報、例えば図7のポイントFP1、FP2、FP3では、ウエハー平面度が悪い為、3mmの飛び飛びの計測から求め、先読み計測による平面から、Δずれている場合が発生する。総光では、先読み計測による平面を総光学系の最良像面に一致させて終光するので、図7では、ずれ ※ Δだけデフォーカスして露光する事が発生する。この飛び飛びの計測はスキャン方向だけでなく、スキャン方向と直交する方向でも同じように発生する。この原因は、計測のタイミングではなく、図14,15に示した光斜入射系の計測点数の構成数によるものである。

[0012]

もちろん、計測タイミングを細かく、例えば1 m m ずつや、光斜入射系の計測点数を多くする事で、図9のずれ盤Δの誤差は小さくなるが、露光時の走査速度の低下や走査計測時間の増大によるスループットの低下や、装置構成の複雑化に伴う装置価格Up,トラブル発生の可能性増大と言う、別の問題を発生させる恐れがある。

[0013]

【課題を解決するための手段】

本発明では、マスク上に形成された回路パターンをウエハー上に投影総光する投影総光装織において、マスクとウエハーを相対的に走査して総光する露光装織であり、ウエハー上に斜め方向から照射し、ウエハーからの反射光をセンサーにて検出することでウエハー表面の高さ方向の情報を計測するウエハー表面位綴計測手段を有し、総光領域の前後と総光領域内のそれぞれの位綴に少なくとも3点以上の計測点を有し、前記3点の高さ計測点は平面を形成するように配綴されており、3点の高さ位機情報から繆光領域の平均的な高さと走査総光方向と直交方向、つまり総光スリットの長手方向の傾き、および走査総光方向

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[0014]

まず、本発明での新規提案の内容の説明を行う前に、従来の走査型露光装置、所謂スキャナーのウエハーに対するフォーカス、チルト計測についての図2以降を用いて詳細な説明を行う。図2は今までに製品化や既に提案されている露光装置の構成を示すものである。

[0015]

エキシマレーザーなどの光源800から射出された光は、総光に最適な所定の形状の露光光東に成型される照明系801を経て、マスクまたはレチクル1(以後レチクルと呼ぶ)の下面に形成されたパターン面を照明する。レチクル1のパターン面には総光すべきIC回路パターンが形成されており、上記パターンから射出された光は投影総光レンズ(以下"投影レンズ"とする)を通過して結像面に相当するウエハー面上近傍に像を形成する。前記レチクルは1方向に往復走査可能なレチクルステージRS上に載置されている。ウエハーは図面上のXYおよびZ方向に走査駆動可能また傾け補正(チルトと呼ぶ)可能な構成となっているウエハーステージWS上に載置されている。

[0016]

前記レチクルステージとウエハーステージを露光倍率の比率の速度で相対的に走査させることでレチクル上のショット領域の総光を行う。ワンショット露光が終了した後にはウエハーステージは次のショットへステップ移動し、先ほどとは逆方向に走査露光を行い次のショットが露光される。これらの動作をステップアンドスキャンといいスキャナー特有の露光方法である。これを繰り返すことでウエハー全域についてショット露光する。

[0017]

[0018]

このフォーカス、チルト検出系は光学的な高さ計測システムを使用している。ウエハー表面に対して大きな角度(低入射角度)で光束を入射させ、反射光の像ズレをCCDなどの位置検出※子で検出する方法をとっている。特に、ウエハー上の複数の計測すべき点に光束を入射させ、各々の光束を個別のセンサーに導き、異なる位置の高さ計測情報から露光すべき面のチルトを算出している。

[0019]

特に、近年では総光光の短波長化、投影レンズの高NA化が激しくなり、総光焦点深度が激減してきている、本発明では矩形形状の走査スリットの短い方向、つまり走査方向への面傾きも高精度に計測補正する必要が生じてきている。

[0020]

図15に示した通り、AM」または、AM rの領域内には複数のフォーカスチルト計測点が面形状をなすように配置されており、走査器光中のスリットが総光領域に窓し掛かる路 光直前に面のフォーカス、チルト情報、特に走査方向へのチルト情報の同時計測を可能に 10

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している。

[0021]

以下に図14、15に示したウエハー表面上のフォーカス計測点に関する説明を述べる。図14、15はフォーカス計測点の配置を示ものであり、図14には三点、図15には5点の計測点を構成した場合の実施例を示している。図15では、総光スリット位置AEの図上では下方、AMI領域内に5点の計測点を投影するように構成し総光スリットに差し掛かる事前に高精度に総光直前のフォーカスチルト情報を取得し、総光位置に補正駆動が可能なようにしている。同様に逆方向のスキャン総光に対応するようにAMF領域にも同様に5点の計測点が投影されるように構成されている。

[0022]

図15に示す例では鑑光スリット前方の事前計測領域に平面を形成するようにフォーカス 計測点を複数点配置することでフォーカス、チルトXに加えて、同時にチルトYを計測することができるために高精度な計測が可能となっている。

[0023]

ここでスキャン総光時のフォーカスチルト事前計測による面位優補正の概略について述べる。図5に示す通り、スキャン方向SDに凹凸を有したウエハー3が総光位優EPに差し掛かる響前に露光スリット前方に平面を形成するように複数点配綴されたフォーカス計測位置FPでウエハー表面位綴のフォーカス、総光スリット領域長手方向のチルト(チルトYと呼ぶ)にくわえて、総光スリット短手方向(スキャン方向)のチルト(チルトYと呼ぶ)計測を行う。そして、計測された情報にもとづいて不図示のウエハーステージを駆勠させ 総光位 微への補正駆動を行う。図6には事前計測された領域が総光スリットに差し掛かった際にはすでに補正が完了しており、総光スリットにて総光される。

[0024]

フォーカス、チルト計測点は、走査総光すべき領域が総光スリット領域に差しかかる度前にフォーカス、チルト情報を計測するために、図14,15に示した通り、総光スリット領域の前後に面を形成するような配置で複数の計測点を配置している。

[0025]

[0026]

図3に、図2に示した従来例のフォーカス計測システムの拡大したの光学概略図を示す。 図3は説明の簡略化のために前方事前計測領域内に5点の計測点を配缀している様子のみ を示す。特にこの実施例では、奥側の計測点スパンと手前の計測点スパンとが異なった配 置となるように投影されるマークの形状を示す。

[0027]

フォーカス計測用光軸は露光スキャンとほぼ庭交方向から複数の光軸が入射されるように配置してあり、各計測点に投影されるマークはそれぞれフォーカス計測光学系の光軸断面内で所定盤回転させて投影される。その結果、ウエハー上では計測スリットの向きが斜めになるよう、また中心計測点に向かってスリットのピッチ方向が配列形成されるように配置されている。

[0028]

図4は図3の計測点認置を実現させるためのフォーカス計測光学系概略配置図である。5 1は5つの照明レンズであり不図示の光源から供給された光にて、フォーカス計測用投影パターンマスク52に形成されたフォーカス計測用スリット状マークを照明する。光源としては、ウエハー上の感光性レジストを感光させない波長の光であることと、レジスト薄膜干渉の影響を受けにくいある程度波長幅の広いハロゲンランプやLEDなどが競ましい 10

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[0029]

投影マスク52にはA視図に示すとおり、複数の計測点分だけのスリット状マークが形成されている。複数の計測マークにそれぞれ照明されて形成された光東は光路合成プリズム53により光路合成され、フォーカスマーク投影光学系61によりウエハー3上に斜め投影される。ウエハー3表面にて反射された光東はフォーカス受光光学系62により光路分割プリズム63内に中間結像点を形成する。光路分割プリズム63により各計測点ごとに配置された拡大検出光学系63により各計測点毎の位置検出素子71へ導かれる。計測素子71は本発明では1次元CCDを用いており、素子の並び方向が計測方向となる。B視図には位置計測素子71から光軸方向を見た際の計測用マークと位置計測素子と拡大光学系63の関係を示しており、各計測点の位置CCDはスリット状マークと直交方向に設定されている。

[0030]

位機計測素子としてはい1次元CCDを用いているが、2次元CCDを配置してもよい。 あるいは、受光素子結像面に参照スリット板を形成し、参照スリット手前において光束を 走査し、参照スリットからの透過光線を検出するような構成でもかまわない。

[0031]

ここまで実施例の説明には、図15に示した、各面位優計測領域に計測点を5点配置した 構成例で行ったが、各計測領域に3点の配置でもこれまでの説明は同様である。

[0032]

図14には露光領域前方の事前計測領域にそれぞれ3点の計測点を構成していた実施例を示すものである。

[0033]

【発明の実施の形態】

次に、図1を用いて本発明での新規提案の内容の説明を行う。図1において、右側の構成は従来例を示した図2と同様である。図1の左側の構成が図2の従来例とは異なるもので、ウエハーステージWS2、干渉計82、ステージ駆動系1001、制御系1101、フォーカスチルト計測システム34を図1の右側の図2と同様な終光系に構成されているものとは別に構成する。図1において、破線の四角で囲ったものが計測ステーションMSである。

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[0034]

計測ステーションMSへウエハー4は搬送され、総光装置ETへ搬送される前に、本出願で提案するフォーカスの詳細先読みをフォーカス検出系34で行う。この時、ウエハー4には既にコーター(不図示)によりレジストが表面に総布されている。このフォーカスの詳細先読みは、ウエハー4を干渉計82だよりにウエハーステージWS2を微小総移動させ行う。この微少縁は、総光装置ETの総光時のフォーカス検出系33の飛び飛びにフォーカス検出する最より小さな値とする事で、飛び飛びの間のウエハー平面度情報を得る率ができる。

[0035]

以下本発明を詳細に説明する。図22を使用して本発明の一実施例を説明する。図22は、ウエハーの流れを示す図であり、まず1枚目のウエハーが綴光装置に搬入され、詳細平面計測を全ショットに対して行う。詳細平面計測後、総光順番の第1ショットへ移動し、Focus計測を飛び飛びに、例えば2mmピッチで、行いその後、先に計測した詳細平面度情報を使用して飛び飛びの間を綴光する場合には、フォーカス、チルト駆動を行って、露光を行う。スキャナーでは、レチクルとウエハーをスキャンして踏光を行うので、図22では、破線の四角で囲んだ部分がそのスキャンしている事を意味している。

[0036]

このスキャン露光で、1ショットの範囲全部を総光を終了すると、次のショットへ移動して、同じ様に、飛び飛びのフォーカス計測、詳細平面度情報を使用した、フォーカス、チルト駆動での露光を繰り返して行い、ウエハー内の全ショットの露光を行う。1枚のウエ

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ハーの| ※光が終了すると、次のウエハーの| ※光の設定がある場合には、次のウエハーの| ※光を同様な手順で行う。

[0037]

図16から図21を使用して、詳細平面度計測の説明を行う。図16,17,18はスキャン方向の計測例で、図19,20,21はスキャン方向と直交の方向の計測例である。図16において、FP1,FP2,FP3が飛び飛びでのフォーカス計測する位窓である。数値例としてあげれば、FP1とFP2,FP2とFP3の間の距離は2mmの値である。

[0038]

まず詳細平面度計測において、スキャン方向の計測例について説明を行う。図16においては、FP1とFP2間のDFP1をフォーカス、チルト検出系33で平面度計測を行い、次にXYステージをフォーカス方向(2方向)へ変化させない様、スキャン方向へ微小駆動し、図22に示す様に、FP1とFP2間のDFP2をフォーカス検出系33で平面度計測する。同じ様に図23では、XYステージをフォーカス方向(2方向)へ変化させない様、スキャン方向へ微小駆動し、FP1とFP2間のDFP3をフォーカス検出系33で平面度計測を行う。この事で、FP1とFP2間のDFP3、DFP2、DFP3の平面度情報を入手することができる。

[0039]

次に詳細平面度計測において、スキャン方向と直交の方向の計測例について説明を行う。 スキャン方向の計測例と同様に、図19,20,21でスキャン方向と適交の方向にXY ステージをフォーカス方向(2方向)へ変化させない様微小駆動し、各位置でフォーカス 検出系で平面度計測を行う。

[0040]

図19,20,21では、フォーカス、チルト検出系のウエハー面での計測する光のスポット33-1,2,3,4,5,6をウエハーの領域A1,2,3との相対位畿関係を示している。

この事で、スキャン方向及びにスキャン方向と直交の方向に対して、詳細平面度計測が可能となる。

[0041]

図 2 3 を使用して本発明の別の実施例について説明を行う。図 2 3 は、ステージが計測用と露光用に二つある場合のウエハーの流れを示す図であり、まず 1 枚目のウエハーが計測ステージに搬入され、詳細平面計測を全ショットに対して行う。ウエハーの詳細平面計測後、ウエハーを支持しているチャック上のマーク(=チャックマーク)に対してFocus計測を行う。この事でウエハー金面の平面度とチャックマークとの平面性の関係を得る事ができる。

[0042]

次にウエハーはチャックに支持されたまま、霧光ステージに移動される。

計測ステージでは、露光ステージの動きとは独立に必要に応じて、次のウエハーの詳細平面計測を全ショットに対して行い、更にチャックマークに対してFocus計測を最初のウエハーと同様に行い、ウエハー全面の平面度とチャックマークとの平面性の関係を得た後で、露光ステージへ、ウエハーはチャックに支持されたまま、移動される。(必要に応じて、待機する場合もあり。)

露光ステージへ移動されたウエハーは、チャックマークに対してFocus計測のみ行い、計測ステージで、計測した、ウエハー全面の平面度とチャックマークとの平面性の関係の情報にもとづき、第1ショットへ移動し、フォーカス、チルト駆動を行って、露光を行う。

[0043]

スキャナーでは、レチクルとウエハーをスキャンして露光を行うので、第1ショットの範囲全部を総光を終了すると、次のショットへ移動して、同じ様に、詳細平面度情報を使用した、フォーカス、チルト駆動での露光を繰り返して行い、ウエハー内の全ショットの※

光を行う。

1枚のウエハーの露光が終了すると、次のウエハーの露光の設定がある場合には、次のウエハーの38光を同様な手順で行う。

[0044]

【発明の効果】

本発明によれば、マスク上に形成された回路パターンをウエハー上に投影露光する投影総光装置において、マスクとウエハーを相対的に走査して終光する走査型総光装置でありり、ウエハー上走滚総光領域の前後に少なくとも各列3点以上の領域に光を斜め方向から照射し、ウエハーからの反射光をセンサーにて検出することでウエハー表面の平均的な高適路とでする検出系を構成し、走査露光される表面を最適において、そのウエハー平面度を総光を調査を構成したフォーカス検出系により、総光装置での走査総光方向で、総光装置には別に構成したフォーカス検出系により、とびに走査総光方向直交方向に構成した少なくとも3点以上の計測点の間のウエハーの位置では、該平面情報をである、露光時にはフォーカス検出系で計測しない間のウエハーの位置では、該平面情報を使用して、フォーカス、チルトを制御、駆動することで、縮小される焦点深度に対しるオーカス補正精度を達成し、一枚のウエハあたりの歩留まり向上を得ることが可能となる

[0045]

【他の実施例】

次に図11に、本発明の露光系において〇「「set Analyzerで全ての計測が終了後、ウエハーをチャックに吸着したままチャック毎、搬送して、チャックマークのみ計測して綴光を行う、総光装置についての実施例を示す。

[0046]

ウエハーを吸着したまま搬送されたチャックは、露光装置のチャックを吸着するチャックに吸着される。フォーカス検出系により、チャックマークのフォーカスを検出し、必要に応じてフォーカス方向に駆動後、位置合わせ検出系ASによって、チャックマーク上の二次元計測可能なマークの位置を計測する。複数のチャックマークにおいてこの計測を行い、Offsel Analyzerでの計測、計算結果にもとづき各ショットへ、干渉計付きXYステージで駆動し、各ショットにおいてフォーカス計測及びに必要に応じてフォーカス方向に駆動後、露光を行い、全ショット露光後には、ウエハーを吸巻したままチャックを、露光装置の外へと搬送する。

[0047]

図11においては、ベースラインが安定していて、安価で安定しているHeNeLaseェや半導体レーザー等の非露光光な光源を使用するTTL-Offaxis方式をチャックマークの二次元位置検出の位置合わせ検出系ASとして採用している。

[0048]

この時、露光装緩の位綴合わせ検出系ASは、チャックマークのみの計測しかしない為、複雑な構成が不要かつTIS除去も不要となり大幅なコストダウンとなりうる。TISはOfFset Analyzerの検出系のみとれば良く、信号シミュレータにTISの考慮も不要となる。

[0049]

ここまで説明してきた、移動可能なチャックを使用するシステムとOſſset Analyzerのシステムに、本出願で提案した、ウエハー表面のフォーカスの詳細先読み検出を適用する事でウエハーフォーカスの高精度検出、※光、高スループットが可能となる

それは、平面(XY)の計測のみ行う場合でなく、フォーカス(Z)も同様に露光装置外の系で行えば、露光装置ではチャックマークのみXYZの計測を行えば良い事となる為である。

[0050]

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本発明での提案のフォーカス詳細先読みを達成させるOffset Analyzerの構成の一実施例を図12に示す。このOffset Analyzerには、ウエハーを吸着したまま移動可能なウエハーを支持するチャック、立体的に移動させる、XYZ ステージ、レジスト有り/無しで表面形状計測をするProfiler、露光装置に構成するアライメント スコープと同等な二次元位巡検出系同じくフォーカス検出系、ウエハーの周辺部も含めた異物検査を行える異物検査系、Offset Analyzer全体を制御し、かつ表面形状からアライメントオフセットを算出するシミュレータを所有した、CPUで構成されている。

[0051]

但し各検出系の検出原理に付いては、既に色々なところで提案され実施されて効果が確認 されていて、どの方式を採用しても構わないので、ここでの説明は割愛する。

[0052]

実際のウエハー及びに情報の流れを図13に示す。

図13-▲1▼の様にレジストを塗布する前にウエハーは、(ここではチャックマークが乗った移動可能なチャックに吸着されずに)Oſſset Analyzerに搬送される。

次に図13-▲2▼の様に、このウエハー上のアライメントマークの立体形状をProfilerで計測する。

次に図13-▲3♥で示す様に、ウエハーはレジストを総布する為にコーターに運ばれ、 レジストが塗布される。

次に図13-▲4▼に示す様に、ウエハーは再度Offset Analyzerに運ばれるが、この時にはチャックマークが乗った移動可能なチャックに吸着されて、チャック毎搬送され、アライメントマーク上のレジストの表面形状をProfilerで計測する

この為、Offset Analyzerにおいては、ウエハーのみでもチャックマークの付いたチャックでも搭載できる機能が必要となる。

[0053]

これを一つの機械機構で達成しても良いし、レジスト塗布前のウエハーもProfiler計測の為に、チャックマークが乗った移動可能なチャックまたは同等な構造で、チャックマークがないチャックに一度ウエハーを吸着させ、Profiler計測後、チャックからウエハーを離して、レジスト塗布の為に、コーターに運ばれ、レジストが塗布される

[0054]

次に図13-▲4▼に示す様に、ウエハーは再度Offset Analyzerに運ばれ、アライメントマーク上のレジストの表面形状をProfiler で計測する。

[0055]

アライメントマーク上のレジストの表面形状をProfiler で計測する時と同時もしくは、その前後にOffset Analyzerに構成した位総合わせ検出系で、ウェハー上の各ショットに配置された、X及びY方向検出の為の複数のアライメントマークのアライメント信号を検出する。又この時にフォーカス計測も行い、各ショットの三次元位置関係を求めておく。次に複数のチャックマークを、干渉計付き X Y Z ステージ基準で三次元位置計測を行う。

[0056]

既に提案したOſſset Analyzerで述べた様に信号シミュレータにより発生するオフセット級を算出する。

異物検査においては、レジスト塗布前に行って、コーターへの異物の拡散を防止する事もできるし、塗布後に行い、総光不良等の発生を未然に防ぐシーケンスも可能となる。

Offset Analyzerにおいて全ての計測を終了すると、総光装置へウエハーをチャックに吸着したままチャック毎、ウエハーとチャックマークとの三次元的な相対関係情報と共に搬送する。

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[0057]

このオフセットとチャックマークとの三次元的な相対関係を元に露光装置でチャックマークのみ三次元的な位置計測を行いマークアライメント、露光を行ない、全てのショットの ※ 光終了後、ウエハー は現像の為にデベロッパーへ搬送される。

[0058]

露光装巡における構成は図11の実施例と同様で、ウエハーを吸着したまま搬送されたチャックは、露光装巡のチャックを吸着するチャックに吸着される。フォーカス検出系により、チャックマークのみフォーカスを検出し、必要に応じてフォーカス方向に駆動後、位置合わせ検出系ASによって、チャックマーク上の二次元計測可能なマークの位巡を計測する。複数のチャックマークにおいてこの計測を行い、OfFset Analyzerでの計測、計算結果にもとずき各ショットへ、干渉計付きXYステージで駆動し、各ショットにおいてフォーカス計測は今回は不要なのでOfFset Analyzerでの計測情報にもとずいて必要に応じてフォーカス方向に駆動後、躑光を行い、全ショット露光後には、ウエハーを吸着したままチャックを、霧光装置の外へと搬送する。

[0059]

この事で露光装置では、チャックマークのみの三次元計測を行って後は露光を行うだけとなり、露光装置のスループットを向上させる事ができ、OffsetAnalyzere含めた露光系全体のCoo(Costofworkship)の性能をUptasewereとなる。

[0060]

フォーカスに関しては、本発明の詳細先読みを行うのに光を使用したフォーカス検出系だけの構成に限定するものではなく、非光を使用したフォーカス系、例えば静総容縁センサーやエアーセンサー等の非光学計測系、を構成して、オフセットをOffset Analyzer上で求める事も可能となる。この時も、総光装置での総光を妨げない範囲で、Offset Analyzerにおいて色々な事を、スループットを低下せずに実施する事ができるのは同様である。

[0061]

又、本発明のチャックの上にマークを配圏した上でのウエハーハンドリングのOffset Analyzerを使用する方法は、図11に示した様に綴光装圏においてTTLOffaxis方式に限定するものではない。例えばOffaxis顕微鏡を使用してチャックマーク位圏を検出することにおいても同様に、プロセスによりアライメントマーク形状が非対称になる事による精度劣化を防ぐ事が可能である。

[0062]

もちろん、ベースラインの変動に対する対策は、Offaxis顕微鏡において必要で、 熱的に影響されにくい部材を使用したり、頻繁にベースライン補正を行なう必要がある。

[0063]

この様に、本発明のチャックの上にマークを配置した上でのウエハーハンドリングの〇「「set Analyzer を使用する方法では、プロセスによりアライメントマーク形状が非対称になる事による精度劣化を防ぐので、CMP等の半導体形成プロセスの影響を受けずに、高精度でかつ高スループットの位置合わせ方式を可能とする為、プロセスにおける複雑な最適化も不要となり、Coo向上が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の第1の実施例であるフォーカス詳細先読みの投影の構成機略を示す図。

- 【図2】従来の露光装置の構成を示す図。
- 【図3】従来の露光装綴の実施例であるフォーカス計測の原理を説明する図。
- 【図4】従来の総光装置の実施例であるフォーカス計測の構成を説明する図。
- 【類5】スキャン露光時のウエハー面フォーカスチルト計測をあらわす図。
- 【図 6 】スキャン露光時のウエハー面フォーカスチルト計測結果により露光スリット位懲に内の最適終光像面位際にウエハー面を駆動させ、露光を行う様子を表す図。

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- 【図7】ウエハー面フォーカスチルト計測を飛び飛びに計測している状態を示す図。
- 【図8】計測結果により最適緣光像面位置にウエハー面を駆動させた状態を示す図。
- 【図9】ウエハー面フォーカスチルト計測の飛び飛び計測での不具合を無す図。
- 【図10】本発明の実施例である、移動可能なマーク付きウエハーチャックを競明する図
- 【図11】 本発 明 の 実 施 例 で あ る 移 動 可 能 な マ ー ク 付 き ウ エ ハ ー チ ャ ッ ク を 使 用 し た 繆 光 装置の構成を説明する図。
- 【図12】本発明の実施例である、谿光機ヘウエハー移動前に、フォーカスの詳細先読み も行うOſſset Analyzerの構成を説明する図。
- 【図13】 本発 明 の 実 施 例 で ある 、 ※ 光 機 へ ウ エ ハ ー 移 動 前 に 、 フ ォ ー カ ス の 詳 細 先 読 み も行うOffset Analyzerを使用してウエハーの三次元情報を求めて露光、 現像を行うシーケンスの説明する図。
- 【 図 1 4 】 繆 光 ス リ ッ ト 内 三 点 の 従 来 の フ ォ ー カ ス 計 測 シ ス テ ム の 光 学 構 成 概 略 を 示 す 図
- 【 図 1 5 】 鑁 光 ス リ ッ ト 内 五 点 の 従 来 の フ ォ ー カ ス 計 測 シ ス テ ム の 光 学 構 成 概 略 を 示 す 図
- 【図16】スキャン方向の計測例。
- 【図17】スキャン方向の計測例。
- 【図18】スキャン方向の計測例。
- 【図19】スキャン方向と直交の方向の計測例。
- 【図20】スキャン方向と直交の方向の計測例。
- 【図21】スキャン方向と直交の方向の計測例。
- 【図22】本発明のウエハーの流れを示す図。
- 【図23】ステージが計測用と 3%光用にある場合のウエハーの流れを示す図。
- 【符号の説明】
- 1:レチクル
- 2:投影レンズ
- 3:ウエハー
- 4:ウエハー@計測ステーション上
- 5:ウエハー@露光装置へ搬送中
- 33:フォーカスチルト計測システム
- 51:フォーカス計測用照明レンズ
- 5 2 : 計測用マークが形成された投影マスク
- 5 3 : 光路合成プリズム
- 61:フォーカス計測用マーク投影光学系
- 6 2 : フォーカス計測用マーク受光光学系
- 63:フォーカス計測用マーク拡大受光光学系
- 7 1 : 位 圏 検 出 セン サー
- RS:レチクルステージ
- WS: ウエハーステージ
- 81:干渉計
- 800: ※光用レーザー光源
- 801:投影露光用照明光学系
- 1000:ステージ駆動系
- 1 1 0 0 : 制御系
- MS:計測ステーション
- ET: 総光装置
- WS2:ウエハーステージ@計測ステーション
- 83:干渉計@計測ステーション
- 1001:ステージ駆動系@計測ステーション

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1 1 0 1 : 制御系@計測ステーション

5 : 光源 (例えば H e - N e レーザー)

7:ファイバー

8:アライメント照明光学系

9:ビームスプリッタ

10:リレーレンズ

11:対物

12:レチクル

13:縮小投影光学系

14:37-

15:エレクター

16: CCDカメラ

17:CCDカメラ上に形成されたチャックマーク像 18 XYステージ

20:レチクルパターン 38光用照明光学系

21:チャックマーク付き移動可能なウエハーチャック

22: θ-Zステージ

23:チルトステージ

25: バーミラー

26:レーザー干渉計

29:フォーカス計測系(投光系)

30:フォーカス計測系 (検出系)

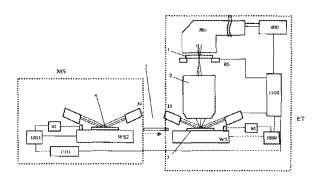
AS: TTL Offaxis アライメント スコープ

31, 32: チャックマーク

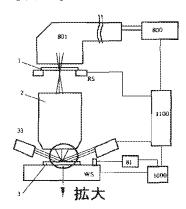
33:チャックを吸着するチャック

51:コンピュータ

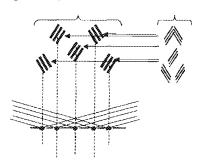
【図1】

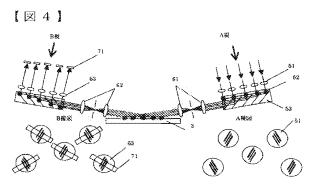


[図2]

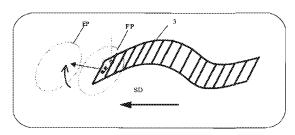


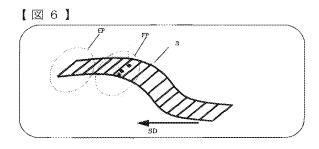
【図3】



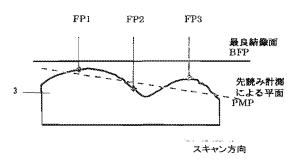


【図5】

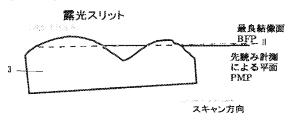




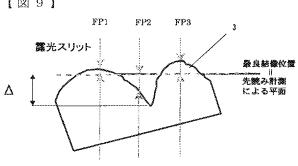
[図7]



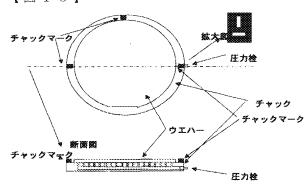
[図8]



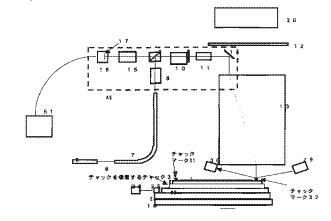
【図9】



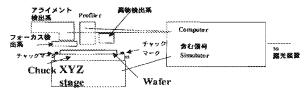
[図10]



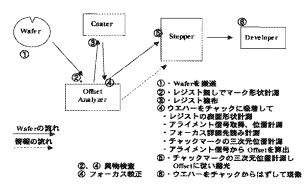
【図11】

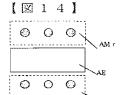


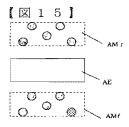


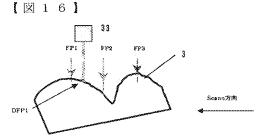


[図13]

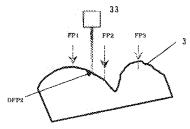




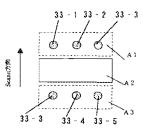




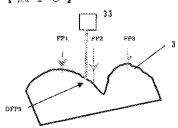
[図17]



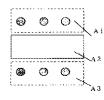
【図19】



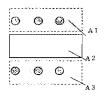
[1 8]



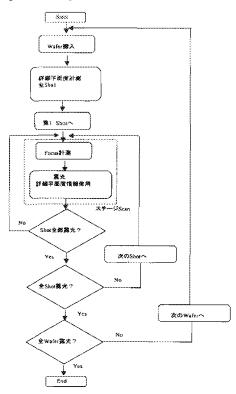
[図20]



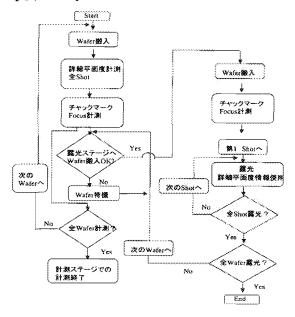
[図21]



【図22】



【図23】



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【要約の続き】

【選択図】 図4